

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-19 variously over Li in view of Sacca and Chamberlin

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,612,996 to Li (“Li”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,692,042 to Sacca (“Sacca”) and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,817,127 to Chamberlin et al. (“Chamberlin”). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 1-19 are amended herein to variously recite a system and method to combining a microphone signal with a playback message signal **before performing hybrid echo cancellation and after performing automatic gain control.**

The Office Action correctly acknowledged that Li fails to “teach injecting a message playback signal into the speakerphone”. (Office Action at 3) The Office Action relies on Sacca to allegedly make up for the deficiencies in Chamberlin to arrive at the claimed invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Sacca is relied on to disclose a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability that injects a playback message into a receiving path (see Office Action, page 3). However, Sacca fails to even mention use of hybrid echo cancellation, much less disclose or suggest a system and method to combining a microphone signal with a playback message signal **before performing hybrid echo cancellation and after performing automatic gain control,** as recited by claims 1-19.

Moreover, Sacca discloses use of summing amplifiers 120 and 142. However, Sacca fails to disclose or suggest use of an automatic gain control, much less disclose or suggest a system and method to combining a microphone signal with a playback message signal **before performing hybrid echo cancellation and after performing automatic gain control,** as recited by claims 1-19.

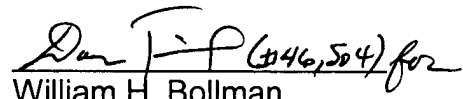
Thus, even if it were obvious to modify Li with the disclosure of Sacca, which it is not since Li fails to disclose or suggest a **NEED** for the suggested modification, Li in view of Sacca fails to disclose or suggest a system and method to combining a microphone signal with a playback message signal **before performing hybrid echo cancellation and after performing automatic gain control**, as recited by claims 1-19.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1-19 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


William H. Bollman
Reg. No. 36,457

MANELLI DENISON & SELTER PLLC
2000 M Street, NW 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20036-3307
TEL. (202) 261-1020
FAX. (202) 887-0336
WHB/df